

technical authority for grant awards resides with the USIA grants officer.

Review Criteria

Technically eligible applications will be competitively reviewed according to the criteria stated below. These criteria are not rank ordered and all carry equal weight in the proposal evaluation:

1. *Institutional Reputation and Ability:* Applicant institutions should demonstrate their potential for excellence in program design and implementation and/or provide documentation of successful programs. If an applicant is a previous USIA grant recipient, responsible fiscal management and full compliance with all reporting requirements for past Agency grants as determined by USIA's Office of Contracts will be considered. Relevant substantive evaluations of previous projects may also be considered in this assessment.

2. *Project Personnel:* The thematic and logistical expertise of project personnel should be relevant to the proposed program. Resumes or C.V.s should be summaries which are relevant to the specific proposal and no longer than two pages each.

3. *Program Planning:* A detailed agenda and relevant work plan should demonstrate substantive rigor and logistical capacity.

4. *Thematic Expertise:* Proposal should demonstrate the organization's expertise in the subject area which promises an effective sharing of information.

5. *Support of Diversity:* Proposals should demonstrate the recipient's commitment to promoting the awareness and understanding of diversity.

6. *Cross-Cultural Sensitivity and Area Expertise:* Evidence should be provided of sensitivity to historical, linguistic, religious, and other cross-cultural factors, as well as relevant knowledge of the target geographic area/country.

7. *Ability to Achieve Program Objectives:* Objectives should be realistic and feasible. The proposal should clearly demonstrate how the grantee institution will meet program objectives.

8. *Multiplier Effect:* Proposed programs should strengthen long-term mutual understanding and contribute to maximum sharing of information and establishment of long-term institutional and individual ties.

9. *Cost-Effectiveness:* Overhead and direct administrative costs to USIA should be kept as low as possible. All other items proposed for USIA funding should be necessary and appropriate to achieve the program's objectives.

10. *Cost-Sharing:* Proposals should maximize cost-sharing through other private sector support as well as direct funding contributions and/or in-kind support from the prospective grantee institution and its partners.

11. *Follow-on Activities:* Proposals should provide a plan for continued exchange activity (without USIA support) which ensures that USIA-supported programs are not isolated events.

12. *Project Evaluation:* Proposals should include a plan to evaluate the activity's success, both as the activities unfold and at the end of the program. USIA recommends that the proposal include a draft survey questionnaire or other technique plus description of a methodology to use to link outcomes to original project objectives. Grantees will be expected to submit intermediate reports after each project component is concluded or quarterly, whichever is less frequent.

Notice

The terms and conditions published in this RFP are binding and may not be modified by any USIA representative. Explanatory information provided by the Agency that contradicts published language will not be binding. Issuance of the RFP does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the Government. The needs of the program may require the award to be reduced, revised, or increased. Final awards cannot be made until funds have been appropriated by Congress, allocated and committed through internal USIA procedures.

Notification

All applicants will be notified of the results of the review process on or about July 17, 1995. Awards made will be subject to periodic reporting and evaluation requirements.

Dated: February 14, 1995.

John P. Loiello,

Associate Director, Educational and Cultural Affairs.

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Generalized System of Preferences (GSP); Initiation of a Review To Consider the Designation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip as a Beneficiary of the GSP Program; Solicitation of Public Comments Relating to the Designation Criteria

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice and solicitation of public comment with respect to the eligibility of the West Bank and Gaza Strip for the GSP program.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the initiation of a review to consider the designation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip as a beneficiary of the GSP program and solicits public comment relating to the designation criteria.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: GSP Subcommittee, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, N.W., Room 513, Washington, D.C. 20506. The telephone number is (202) 395-6971.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) has initiated a review to determine if the West Bank and Gaza Strip meet the designation criteria of the GSP law and should be designated as a beneficiary for purposes of the GSP program, which is provided for in the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2461-2465). The designation criteria are listed in sections 502(a), 502(b) and 502(c) of the Act. Interested parties are invited to submit comments regarding the eligibility of the West Bank and Gaza Strip for designation as a GSP beneficiary. The designation criteria mandate determinations related to such practices as: participation in commodity cartels, preferential treatment provided to other developed countries, expropriation without compensation, enforcement of arbitral awards, support of international terrorism, and protection of internationally recognized worker rights. Other practices taken into account include: the extent of market access for goods and services, investment practices and protection of intellectual property rights.

Comments must be submitted in 15 copies, in English, to the Chairman of the GSP Subcommittee, Trade Policy Staff Committee, 600 17th Street, N.W., Room 513, Washington, D.C. 20506. Comments must be received no later than 5 p.m. on Wednesday, March 15, 1995. Information and comments submitted regarding the West Bank and Gaza Strip will be subject to public

inspection by appointment with the staff of the USTR Public Reading Room, except for information granted "business confidential" status pursuant to 15 CFR 2003.6. If the document contains business confidential information, 15 copies of a nonconfidential version of the submission along with 15 copies of the confidential version must be submitted. In addition, the submission should be clearly marked "confidential" at the top and bottom of each and every page of the document. The version which does not contain business confidential information (the public version) should also be clearly marked at the top and bottom of each and every page (either "public version" or "non-confidential").

Frederick L. Montgomery,

Chairman, Trade Policy Staff Committee.

[FR Doc. 95-4444 Filed 2-17-95; 2:20 pm]

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Notice of Establishment of the Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans

SUMMARY: As required by Section 9(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, U.S.C. (App.) 9(c), the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) hereby gives notice of the establishment of the Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans in compliance with Public Law 103-446, Title 5, Section 510. VA has

determined that this action is in the public interest.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The objectives of this committee are to advise the Secretary of Veterans Affairs with respect to the administration of benefits by the Department for veterans who are minority group members through review of reports and studies pertaining to such veterans concerning compensation, health care, rehabilitation, outreach and other benefits and programs administered by the Department.

The Committee will make an assessment of the needs of veterans who are minority group members and review VA programs and activities designed to meet such needs. The Committee will submit a report no later than July 1 of each year to the Secretary on the programs and activities of the Department that pertain to veterans who are minority group members.

The Committee membership will be selected based on the criteria enumerated in the authorizing statute. That is: (i) Representatives of veterans who are minority group members; (ii) individuals who are recognized authorities in fields pertinent to the needs of veterans who are minority group members; (iii) veterans who are minority group members who have experience in a military theater of operations; (iv) and veterans who are minority group members who do not have such experience. The Committee will include as ex officio members the following: (i) The Secretary of Labor (or a representative designated by the

Secretary after consultation with the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment); (ii) The Secretary of Defense (or a representative designated by the Secretary of Defense); (iii) The Secretary of Interior (or a representative designated by the Secretary of interior); (iv) The Secretary of Commerce (or a representative designated by the Secretary of Commerce); (v) The Secretary of Health and Human Services (or a representative designated by the Secretary of Health and Human Services; and (vi) the Under Secretary for Health and the Under Secretary for Benefits, or their designees. Minority group member means an individual who is—(1) Asian American; (2) Black; (3) Hispanic; (4) Native American (including American Indian, Alaskan Native, and Native Hawaiian); or (5) Pacific Islander American. The Secretary may invite representatives of other departments and agencies of the United States to participate in the meetings and other activities of the Committee.

Appointments will be for two years unless otherwise directed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

The Designated Federal Official for the Committee is Anthony T. Hawkins, Executive Director, Center for Minority Veterans.

By Direction of the Secretary.

Dated: February 14, 1995.

Heyward Bannister,

Committee Management Officer.

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